

Message Text

SECRET

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, MNUC

SUBJECT: ENHANCED RADIATION WARHEAD: NEXT STEPS

1. FRG AMBASSADOR VON STADEN CALLED ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST FEBRUARY 27 TO EXPRESS FONMIN GENSCHER'S APPRECIATION FOR WAY SALT/ER CONSULTATIONS WERE HANDLED IN THE NAC FEBRUARY 24, AND POSE THREE QUESTIONS FROM GENSCHER ON ENHANCED RADIATION WARHEAD (ERW): A) HOW DO WE PLAN PREPARATIONS FOR THE NEXT NAC IN ERW; B) WHAT ARE OUR VIEWS ON TIMING; AND C) WHAT WAS OUR REACTION TO DUTCH SUGGESTION THAT THE NEXT NAC ON ERW SHOULD BE IN ABOUT FOUR WEEKS? VON STADEN SAID GENSCHER WOULD LIKE REPLIES BY FEBRUARY 28.

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2. IN RESPONSE, WE ASKED VON STADEN TO TELL GENSCHER WE WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE FURTHER IDEAS. WE ARE STILL REVIEWING POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS IN LIGHT OF THE FEBRUARY 24 CONSULTATION. OUR PRELIMINARY VIEW IS THAT BILATERAL EXCHANGES WITH THE FRG AND OTHER ALLIES WILL PROBABLY BE NECESSARY PRIOR TO

ANOTHER NAC MEETING, IN ORDER TO DISCUSS BOTH SUBSTANCE AND SCENARIO. IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY AT THIS MOMENT WHEN THE NEXT NAC MEETING SHOULD BE HELD, AS THIS WILL DEPEND IN PART ON THE OUTCOME OF BILATERAL EXCHANGES.

WE DO NOT WISH TO COMMIT OURSELVES TO THE DUTCH IDEA OF PUTTING OFF ANOTHER NAC MEETING FOR FOUR WEEKS, ALTHOUGH IF THIS MEANT THAT A MEETING AT THAT POINT WOULD COMPLETE THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS SATISFACTORILY WE WOULD WANT TO CONSIDER IT. APART FROM TIMING, WE ARE NOT SURE WHETHER ONE MORE NAC MEETING IS THE OPTIMUM OR WHETHER MORE THAN ONE WILL PROVE NECESSARY; IT IS EVIDENT, HOWEVER, THAT ALL THE ALLIES SHARE A CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN DOING THE BEST WE CAN TO RESOLVE THIS QUESTION BEFORE THE NATO SUMMIT AND THE UNGA SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT. WE WILL BE MOTIVATED BY THAT CONSIDERATION IN JUDGING TIMING FOR FURTHER MEETINGS.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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